

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166524

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, AF, US

SUBJECT: AFGHAN AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB
SUMMARY: DURING A BRIEF CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY, AMBAS-
SADOR KARIM WAS TOLD
OF OUR CONTINUING GREAT INTEREST IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, KARIM TOUCHED ON AFGHAN-PAKISTAN
RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN PL
480 WHEAT. POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS WERE MENTIONED ON AN
INFORMAL BASIS BY KARIM. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR ABDUL WAHID KARIM PAID A BRIEF
COURTESY CALL ON THE UNDER SECRETARY ON JULY 15. DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS AND MCKEE (NEA/PAB) SAT IN. AFTER
EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL SATISFACTION WITH THE EXCELLENT STATE
OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE UNDER SECRETARY DREW AMBASSADOR
KARIM'S ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
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ATTACHES TO EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER OPIUM CULTIVATION AND
TRAFFICKING IN AFGHANISTAN. MR. DUBS NOTED THAT CULTI-
VATION OF OPIUM POPPIES NEAR LANDS IRRIGATED BY THE U.S.-
AIDED HELMAND VALLEY PROJECT HAD BEEN REPORTED. THIS
WORRISOME CIRCUMSTANCE MADE PRESIDENT DAOUD'S PERSONAL
COMMITMENT TO NARCOTICS CONTROL THE MORE WELCOME AND IMPOR-
TANT. AMBASSADOR KARIM POINTED OUT THAT SUBSTITUTE CROPS

SHOULD BE INTRODUCED, PARTICULARLY IN THE REMOTE BADA KHSHAN

AND SHINWARI AREAS. HE ALSO RECALLED DAOUD'S COMMITMENT AND THE AFGHAN INITIATIVE IN SETTING UP A CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH U.S. AND MULTILATERAL AGENCIES TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL. HABIB UNDERScoreD OUR INTEREST IN ASSISTING AFGHANISTAN WHEREVER DESIRABLE AND POSSIBLE AND THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS RAISED IN THE SPIRIT OF OPENESS AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH MARKS OUR RELATIONSHIP.

2. RESPONDING TO THE UNDER SECRETARY'S INQUIRY, AMBASSADOR KARIM NOTED AFGHANISTAN'S UNHAPPY MEMORIES OF PREVIOUS MILITARY REGIMES IN PAKISTAN BUT EMPHASIZED KABUL'S OFFICIAL SILENCE ABOUT RECENT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PAKISTAN. AFGHANISTAN SOUGHT NOTHING MORE THAN THE WELL-BEING OF THE PATHANS AND BALUCHIS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PAKISTAN CONSTITUTION. HE OPINED THAT DISCONTENT WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AMONG THESE TWO ETHNIC GROUPS HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE RECENT TURMOIL. HE UNDER-LINED AFGHANISTAN'S ABIDING INTEREST IN A STABLE PAKISTAN.

3. THE UNDER SECRETARY INQUIRED HOW WE MIGHT BEST HELP AFGHANISTAN. AMBASSADOR KARIM MENTIONED THE REQUEST FOR MORE PL 480 WHEAT. MR. DUBS ALLUDED TO SOME OBSTACLES RELATING TO TIMING AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE REQUEST COULD BE MOVED THROUGH OUR INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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AGENCY MACHINERY AND THAT AN AGREEMENT COULD BE NEGOTIATED PROMPTLY TO MEET AT LEAST PART OF THE AFGHAN REQUEST. ASKED WHETHER AFGHANISTAN COULD PAY THE FREIGHT CHARGES FROM KARACHI INLAND, WHICH UP NOW HAVE BEEN MET BY USING U.S.-OWNED NON-CONVERTIBLE PAKISTANI RUPEES, AMBASSADOR KARIM DEMURRED. THE UNDER SECRETARY STATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE.

4. AMBASSADOR KARIM CITED THE VALUE OF HIGH AND EVEN HIGHEST-LEVEL VISITS IN "ENHANCING" ALREADY CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE UNDER SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD BE KEPT IN MIND BUT THAT THERE WAS LITTLE SCOPE FOR ANY TOP-LEVEL VISITS IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR. HABIB SAID HE APPRECIATED THAT THIS WAS BEING RAISED IN A VERY INFORMAL AND UNOFFICIAL WAY AND THAT THIS WAS THE PROPER APPROACH AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME. AMBASSADOR KARIM CONCURRED, ADDING THAT HE WOULD NOT REPORT TO KABUL ITS HAVING BEEN RAISED. VANCE

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